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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik.

1950 - 1951 ACTIVITY OF INSTITUTE OF EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE,
ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES USSR

The joint session of the Academy of Sciences USSR and the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR which took place in June 1950 marked a turning point in the activity of all USSR workers in the fields of physiology, medicine, psychology, and educational work related to these sciences. The momentous session in question, which discussed problems of Pavlov's theory, laid down the correct Pavlovian approach to investigations in the field of medicine. The decisions made by this session also determined the subsequent program of the Institute of Experimental Medicine and induced this institute, at which Pavlov was active for 45 years, to turn back decisively to the road indicated by him. This involved a reorganization, creation of new departments, and employment of new people.

In the recent activity of the institute, particular attention was paid to fundamental problems connected with the work of I. P. Pavlov, I. V. Michurin, and O. B. Lepeshinskaya. Thus, ten new problems dealing with the study of noncellular living matter have been added to the research program.

The divisions of Physiology and Pathophysiology of Higher Nervous Activity continue investigations connected with higher nervous activity. The regulation of circulation, digestion, and metabolism by the nervous system is being investigated, also formation of the higher nervous activity under the influence of external conditions.

The Division of Pharmacology has set itself the task of finding new drugs which affect the nervous system. In the Division of Microbiology, the influence of various sections of the nervous system on processes of infection and immunity is being investigated. The Division of Physiological Physics studies changes of the functional condition of the central nervous system under the effect of electrical currents. The Division of Pathological Anatomy is studying the development of pathological processes induced by various changes of the central nervous system. Within the general scope of "nervism," an investigation of the fever process is being carried out by the Division of General Pathology.

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Other problems on which work is being done by associates of the institute include modifiability of viruses and microbes, malignant tumors, atherosclerosis, high blood pressure, phytoncides and antibiotics, and growth of tissues and cells in phylogenesis and ontogenesis.

Of decisive importance in the reorganization of the institute is the fact that party groups of the divisions and the party organization of the institute as a whole participate actively and on a new basis in planning and that plans are discussed extensively and outlined in great detail by divisions prior to consideration by the Scientific Council of the institute. The Scientific Council on Problems of Pavlov's Physiological Teaching at the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR has lent great aid to planning by criticizing the plans of three physiological divisions of the institute. The institute has resumed collaboration with the therapeutic institutions of Leningrad and has selected as its principal base the Hospital imeni Karl Marx. A number of the institute's laboratories are already working with this hospital as a base.

During the past year, the institute has done much work that is of value for practical medicine. Thus, the virus of measles was isolated and successfully cultivated (this investigation included studies on changes in the pathogenicity of the virus); the virus of infectious [epidemic] hepatitis was isolated; phytoncides for the treatment of dysentery and trichomonadous colitis were introduced; and a simple and convenient method for determining the toxigenicity of streptococcus cultures was developed. Physiologists of the institute have developed a method for combating uterine hemorrhages; biochemists are successfully investigating conditions under which the growth of bacterial cultures takes place; and natural gastric juice has received extensive therapeutic application. The preparation of gastric juice for this purpose has not only been resumed at the institute, but, at the initiative of A. T. Dolinskiy, manager of the Gastric Juice Laboratory of the institute, is also being carried out at a number of Leningrad therapeutic institutions as well as laboratories organized in other cities. -- Prof D. Biryukov, Corresponding Member, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, director of Institute of Experimental Medicine, Leningrad

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